cocoanut trees which yielded sweet drinks. The restrictions should be removed and the manufacture of sweet toddy actively encouraged.

Another matter of grievance was that licenses were being insisted on for the possession of pepper, ginger, cocoanut oil and other articles subject to export duty in the Shencottah taluk which was a source of great hardship. This restriction should be removed.

The Member suggested that shop rents should be collected not by the departmental men but by the taluk authorities, as such a duty was inconsistent with the detection and prevention of crime.

The subject of contracts was again a matter of complaint from the people. The giving of big contracts of the value of Rs. 2 or 3 lakhs should be done by Government as it was done before.

Lastly, the Member requested that the Nagercoil Distillery should be worked to its maximum capacity.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

24. Evils arising from the use of intoxicants by the people and the desirability of Government adopting measures to remedy the same.

Mr. R. Raman Pillai (Member, Quilon taluk) said that the evils arising from the use of intoxicants such as alcohol, opium, bhang and ganja by the people were very great in that the drinking habits of man tended to lower the resisting power of the human body, were greatly injurious to health and led to crimes. Those who avoided the use of intoxicants were found to be capable of resisting the parasites of malaria and other diseases. The question had been engaging the attention of all civilised countries in the world, movements were started everywhere to prohibit the use of intoxicants, and such movements had gained the general support of the people. He submitted that it was the duty of every civilised Government to take such steps as were necessary for preventing the evils arising from the use of intoxicants.

In conclusion, the Member submitted the following suggestions for the consideration of Government :—

(1) Government should declare that it was their intention to prevent the use of intoxicants as much as possible.

(2) Persons using intoxicants should not be entertained in Government service or allowed to practice as Vakils.

(3) The import of foreign liquor, except the quantity required for the use of Europeans, should be prohibited.

(4) The making and sale of native intoxicating drinks should be restricted.

(5) The use of opium and ganja should be prohibited except for medicinal purposes.

(6) The owners of factories and workshops in the State should be asked to take the necessary steps to prevent the workmen from using intoxicating drinks.

(7) The opening of drinking shops within towns and near markets should be discouraged.

(8) Restrictions should be imposed on keeping drinking shops open only for certain hours in the day.

(9) Books written on the evil effects of the use of intoxicants should be published and taught in all schools in the State, especially night schools.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-27 P. M.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly